

wrote then to Representative Ford with similar reservations and a challenge to share those sentiments with the Congress, which Representative Ford did.

I share Mr. Debris' concerns about the lack of civility and personal responsibility in Congress. Throughout my seventeen years in Washington, I have strived to follow the call of Micah 6:8 "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Mr. Debris' letter is a good reminder of the humility and civility needed in Congress. I have also sought to follow the advice of Edmund Burke, a noted British parliamentarian, who said "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing."

For the edification of my colleagues, Mr. Debris' letter is below:

Grand Rapids, MI, May 31, 2010.

REPRESENTATIVE EHLERS, I have just returned home on this stormy Memorial Day morning after spending time with a member of my family. While driving home I realized that I needed to voice my concern with you over the welfare of our country. More specifically on the ineptness of the Legislative Branch to work in harmony with one another to strengthen and unite this country.

Yes, I have voted for you in past elections and consider myself a Republican, but I have also voted for Democrats on more than one occasion. What is so special about this country is that I have the right to choose the men and women that are sent to Washington D.C. Unfortunately, after the polls close and the elected officials, Republican or Democrat, take their oath they seem to serve only one person. That person being themselves.

It seems as though not a day goes by when a politician is in the news double talking their way around a simple question, pushing blame off to another person or political party, or making promises to the American people by saying one thing and not even doing anything to resolve the issue. When asked a question, give a straight forward answer. When confronted with wrong doing, take responsibility. Don't blame others. When making promises, act with integrity and accomplish what you set forth to do with no complaints.

Included is a copy of a letter from Mr. Irwin Koropas to former Representative Gerald R. Ford back in 1950. Mr. Koropas was concerned with the inability of Congress to work together by getting off their proverbial high horse to preserve this great country. Sadly, the same concern holds true today. Sixty years have passed and Congress still does not understand what the American people want. Do what you were elected to do...work for the American people, not yourself.

Mr. Irwin Koropas served his country proudly. He loved his wife and daughter and modeled examples of honesty, respect, and patriotism to his three grandchildren. The good Lord called him home some years ago, but he is never forgotten. Every Memorial Day I visit him. I visit my grandpa. I will never be embarrassed to be an American or to call this great land home. However, I am embarrassed by the elected politicians serving in the nation's capital. Who will be the first politician to put aside political partisanship and honestly and faithfully put the needs of Americans ahead of their own personal agenda?

I'll close this letter with the words my grandpa wrote to then Representative Ford sixty years ago. Representative Ehlers, "Please read this to Congress if you got the guts, which I think you have."

Respectfully,

PAUL DEBRIS,
Grand Rapids, MI.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Monday, July 19, 2010.

For Monday, July 19, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 448 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1472); "aye" on rollcall vote No. 449 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 126); and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 450 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1219).

REGARDING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the island of Cyprus to honor the memory of the nearly 5,000 Cypriots who lost their lives during the invasion and to remember the 200,000 Cypriots who were forcibly removed from their homes and the nearly 1,500 Cypriots who are still missing to this day.

A deep respect for freedom, human rights and the rule of law unite the people of Cyprus and the United States. We must draw upon these common values and democratic vision as we work together toward a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of Cyprus.

All Cypriots deserve a united island that fulfills the promise of peace and democracy for which a generation has paid so dearly. The United States stands with the people of Cyprus as they work to achieve a bi-communal and bi-zonal reunification under a single sovereignty with respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

Now that the elections are over, the U.S. joins other nations in encouraging President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot Leader Eroglu to resume their efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF ALBERT OWENS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful life and accomplishments of Albert Owens with sadness as I mourn his passing. Mr. Owens, one of the first African-Americans to leave his indelible mark on the entertainment industry, recently passed away due to illness at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City. He was sixty-one years of age.

Albert began his career as a founding member of the Charles Unicycle Riders. He gained

national recognition in 1965, after appearing as a guest on the hit television show "I've Got a Secret." Albert and his group eventually became the Ringling Bros. first African-American troupe, changing their name to the 'King Charles Troupe.' He also performed acts with the Barnum & Bailey Circus among many others, and reached a new level of national fame.

Yet, Albert's roots remained grounded as his determination to assist his hometown never wavered. When not traveling and performing, he was a devoted family man who returned home to his Bronx community to continue his work as a volunteer. Albert worked tirelessly to counsel the city's youth with the YMCA, using the unicycle as a tool to engage young people and help them build stronger character. He mentored the next generation up until his passing, never swaying from his resolve to provide the blueprint for success which they can all follow.

Albert Owens was a man of devotion with a commitment to service. Despite his well-earned fame and his standing within the entertainment industry, he always put the needs of his community and the hopes and dreams of others before his own. Albert was a man of many talents and friends. I am honored to say that he was a friend to the city of New York.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN THE HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, the Bluegrass Region of Central Kentucky is one of the most picturesque spots in our country. Central Kentucky has miles of rolling fields of pasture partitioned with plank fencing. These fields and farms house some of the most spectacular athletes on the planet—horses—giving our region its name: the Horse Capital of the World. And in a few short weeks, the world is coming to see it.

For the first time since its start in 1990, the World Equestrian Games are coming to America and more specifically, to the Kentucky Horse Park. Lexington will take its place alongside other host cities to showcase the magnificence of the horse. Lexington and Central Kentucky will be on an international platform that in the past has included Stockholm, The Hague, Rome, Jerez in Spain and Aachen, Germany.

For 16 days, visitors and spectators from every state in the union and more than 50 other countries will see championship level competition in dressage, eventing, endurance, driving, reining, vaulting, jumping, and para-dressage marking. And, for the first time, all eight competitions will be held at a single venue.

Truly this event will benefit the region and one of Kentucky's signature industries. In addition to an economic impact of millions, hundreds of members of the media from 40 or more countries will attend this event. Televised coverage of this event will represent the largest major network broadcast of equestrian sport in U.S. television history and presents a tremendous opportunity to portray the scenic beauty of Central Kentucky in a manner that may never be rivaled again.